

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the original with the attached substitute single sheet abstract.

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method is provided for oxidizing and/or decomposing organic and/or inorganic oxidizable substances in waste water by wet oxidation with a use of a catalyst, wherein the oxidizable substances are oxidized and/or decomposed with an oxygen containing gas in the presence of the catalyst under pressure such that the waste water retains the liquid phase thereof at a temperature of 50°C to less than 170°C; the catalyst contains activated carbon; and the oxygen concentration is controlled in an exhaust gas in the range from 0 to 5 vol%. The present inventive method is capable of treating waste water efficiently for a long period in a stable manner at reduced temperatures as compared with the substantially higher temperatures and pressures used in many of the prior art methods.